

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A ceramic colorant in the form of a suspension, the colorant comprising particles of colorant having nanometric dimensions ~~in which the solvent of, wherein the suspension contains a solvent is a high-boiling alcohol selected from the group consisting of diethylene glycol, ethylene glycol, and polyethylene glycol, and wherein the suspension includes an appropriate amount of water to facilitate hydrolysis, and wherein the particles of colorant are selected from the group consisting of:~~

M^{II}M^{III}₂O₄, where M^{II} is selected from the group consisting of Fe^{II}, Zn, Co, Ni, and Mn, and M^{III} is selected from the group consisting of Fe^{III}, Al, Cr, and Mn;

CoAl₂O₄;

Ti(Sb,Cr)O₂;

(Zr,Pr)SiO₄;

(Zr,V)SiO₄;

(Al,Cr)₂O₃;

(Al,Cr)MO₃, where M is selected from the group consisting of Y, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, and Yb;

Ti(Sb,Ni)O₂;

(ZrV)O₂;

(Sn,V)O₂;

CaSn_{1-x}Cr_xSiO₅, where x is between 0.01 and 0.1;

Sn_{1-x}Cr_xO_{3-x/2}, where x is between 0.01 and 0.1;

Au⁰;

Ag⁰; and

Cu⁰.

2. (Previously Presented) The ceramic colorant according to Claim 1, in which the particles have diameters of between 5 nm and 600 nm.

3-4 (Cancelled)

5. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of ceramic colorants, the process comprising the steps of:

adding salts of desired metals to a known volume of alcohol to form a solution;

heating under stirring the solution to complete solubilization of the salts;

adding an appropriate amount of water for facilitating hydrolysis of the salts;

heating the solution to a temperature higher than 150°C for furthering the hydrolysis and to form a suspension;

cooling the suspension to room temperature once the hydrolysis reaction is completed;

utilizing one of dialysis and ultrafiltration to perform at least one of eliminating the salts and replacing the solvent;

centrifuging the suspension to form a precipitate.

6. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 5 further including the steps of:

adding reagents (solutions of salts of metals) to a polar solvent previously brought to the desired temperature of hydrolysis;

bringing the suspension to room temperature; and

dehydrating the reaction environment with dehydrating agents.

7. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 5 further including the steps of:

dissolving the salts are in the high-boiling alcohol at an adequate temperature;

adding an unmixable solvent to the high-boiling alcohol to form an emulsion of micelles of nanometric dimensions;

adding an appropriate amount of water to the suspension under stirring to facilitate hydrolysis, allowing it to react at a temperature higher than 120°C; and

cooling the suspension to room temperature.

8-11 (Canceled)

12. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 5 further including the step of collecting and drying the precipitate to obtain the colorant in the form of a powder.

13. (Cancelled)